

wage increase will not cost us jobs. Research shows that it creates jobs. And to the Speaker, who says this will widen the gap between American wages and those in Mexico and the Third World, I say: Do we want to raise the world's wages up or just drag ourselves down?

Republican Leader ARMEY not only opposes the increase, he wants to demolish the minimum wage altogether.

To the Republicans lower wages and fewer benefits are just money in the bank for American business. Never mind that people are suffering while profits soar.

This should not be a partisan issue. This is about our standard of living. The American people want this increase by an overwhelming margin, and Democrats are going to fight to give it to them because it is right for our economy and it is right for the hard-working families who are the heart of our party and the heart of our country.

SMALLER GOVERNMENT AND LOWER TAXES

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, some Greek archaeologists recently announced that they may have discovered the tomb of Alexander the Great deep in the desert of Western Egypt. When they found the body, it had a laminated copy of the Contract With America in one hand and an ancient hole puncher in the other.

I suppose the lesson is that the ideas of smaller government and lower taxes are timeless.

However, they were not always such popular ideas in this institution or in this city. It took a revolution for them to take hold here. But take hold they have.

And in just 28 days we have completely reformed the way Congress does business, passed a balanced budget amendment, passed an unfunded mandates bill, and we are about to pass a line item veto. We have done it in record time and passed every single one with significant bipartisan support. And this is just the beginning, Mr. Speaker.

Have you heard of the new cable station called the History Channel? Well, C-SPAN is the real history channel. It is history in the making. So do not touch that dial.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the President today proposed a modest increase in the minimum wage. We should support him. The President's proposal, combined with the earned income tax credit we passed last Congress, will go a long way in pushing

millions of Americans out of poverty. Sixty percent or 6 out of every 10 of those who are minimum wage workers are women. Many of them have children. And, most minimum wage workers are poor.

Increases in the minimum wage have not kept pace with increases in the cost of living. That is why a worker can work full time, 40 hours a week, and still be below the poverty level. If the Federal Reserve Board can increase interest rates seven times in less than 6 months, with no inflation in sight, surely we can increase the minimum wage for the first time since April 1991, a period during which the cost of housing, food, and clothing has greatly risen for the minimum wage worker. The best welfare reform is a job, at a livable wage. I support this constrained request to lift millions of workers out of poverty.

□ 1030

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, my inquiry has to do with the courtesy extended to Members who are attempting to deliver their 1-minute messages this morning. I notice that Members on the other side are moving around the podium and placing their papers there, distracting from the individual who is speaking. Now this side has not chosen to use those tactics.

My inquiry is as to appropriate behavior when another Member of the House is addressing the public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's observation is well taken. Members should not be standing in front of the rostrum while other Members are speaking, and the Chair would ask all Members to observe basic courtesy when Members are speaking in the House.

Ms. KAPTUR. And Members awaiting their turn to speak should be seated until they are recognized by the Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not traffic the well when any other Member is speaking.

WHY WE NEED REGULATORY REFORM AND A MORATORIUM ON NEW REGULATIONS

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call your attention to another crazy regulatory scheme they are cooking up over at OSHA.

Buried in a proposed rule on indoor air quality is a requirement that employers provide 24 hours notice to employees every time a pesticide or hazardous chemical is used in the workplace. These so-called hazardous

chemicals could include polishes, cleaners, air fresheners, pest control products, and so on. If OSHA has its way, every day my colleagues walk into this building, someone is going to hand you dozens of notices about chemicals that are going to be used tomorrow—if anybody can figure out what they are.

This is nuts. I do not need to know that Windex is going to be used in the men's room tomorrow. This is another example of an out-of-control agency that disregards common sense; this is another example of why we need regulatory reform and a moratorium on new regulations until we can sort this all out.

CONGRESSMEN EARNING 90 CENTS EVERY 45 SECONDS SHOULD SUPPORT INCREASING THE MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE BY 90 CENTS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, based on a 40-hour week, Members of this body make \$64.40 an hour. When we leave the floor today, at 3 p.m., we will have earned \$325.

For the millions of Americans who earn minimum wage, \$325 means 2 weeks of work, 2 weeks sweeping the floors in our nursing homes; 2 weeks crouched behind a sewing machine putting together our clothes, 2 weeks changing the bedpans in our hospitals, 2 weeks, for what my colleagues and I will earn in the next 5 hours.

Today, the President has proposed increasing the minimum wage by 90 cents. Congressmen earn 90 cents every 45 seconds.

Yet, how easy it will be for so many of my \$65 an hour colleagues to dismiss this increase. "Not needed," they will say. "Bad economic policy." Let me tell my colleagues what I believe is bad economic policy:

A minimum wage that leaves millions of Americans with children who are hungry, with college that cannot be paid for, with homes that cannot be bought and with dreams that will never be fulfilled.

That is bad economic policy. Do the right thing. Support a livable minimum wage.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE HOUSE

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, a Washington Post-ABC news poll released last Monday contains good news for this House and better news for the country. In only 3 months public confidence in Congress has doubled from 26 to 46 percent, the largest increase of its kind in the 20-year history of this poll. The majority of Americans